



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

AUG 15 2003

Mr. Steven A. Moll
President
Island Public Affairs
34 East Main Street, #359
Smithtown, New York 11787

Dear Mr. Moll:

Thank you for writing to Secretary Evans concerning the Islander East Pipeline Company's administrative appeal filed under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and currently pending before the Department of Commerce. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) processes many aspects of CZMA appeals for the Secretary of Commerce, and therefore was asked to respond to your correspondence.

Your letter supports Islander East's proposed natural gas pipeline and urges the Department to override the State of Connecticut's objection to the project. Your letter will be included in the administrative record on which the Secretary relies in deciding the appeal. As you may be aware, the Department recently resumed processing the appeal following Connecticut's reiteration of its objection to the pipeline project in connection with a procedural request made by Islander East. Additional information regarding both proceedings in the appeal and documents comprising the administrative record may be found at the Department's CZMA appeals website www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm.

Thank you again for your views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

James R. Walpole
General Counsel



Island Public Affairs

Steven A. Moll
President

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July 24, 2003

Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

2003 AUG -6 PM 4:14
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a Long Island businessman concerned about the future of the economic viability both the Island and the Tri-State region, I am writing in support of an appeal submitted by Islander East, LLC to overturn the denial by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding proposed construction of the Islander East pipeline.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) awarded this project a certificate of public convenience and necessity" last September. The pipeline is desperately needed to benefit the public interest by increasing the reliability and flexibility of the interstate pipeline grid.

I live on an island with limited electric generation sites and few transmission lines. Even with state regulations aimed at streamlining the application process, proposed sites are year in the approval process. Businesses need affordable and reliable energy supplies. We have lost many large companies to other regions with lower electric rates. Paying through the nose for electricity puts companies in our region at a huge disadvantage; both in attracting and keeping talented employees and also when competing for customers.

Long Island's energy picture has again stabilized, after more than a decade of disruption and confusion. We must do everything within our power to bolster energy reliability in our region. We need to make sure our energy decisions deliver benefits for the long run. We can achieve this through the completion and operation of the Islander East conduit.

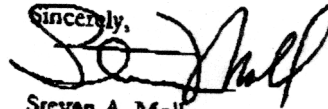
It is important to emphasize that the Islander East pipeline will also will bolster the Connecticut economy. In addition, by promoting the use of clean, safe supplies of continental natural gas, the pipeline helps our area decrease our dependence on imported oil.

The Islander East pipeline clearly fulfills the twin goals of the Coastal Zone Management Program. It balances regional and national energy interests with the need to protect the environment.

I therefore respectfully request that the Commerce Department make a judgment in favor of this position by rejecting the DEP denial and ruling that the Islander East pipeline complies with Connecticut's CZM.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Moll
President

cc:

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hon. Timothy Bishop